against such companies alongwith details of the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has informed that it has not received any complaint relating to private insurers acting arbitrarily in issuing policies/settling claims.

(b) to (d) Each insurance company has its own underwriting policy and may devise products for different age groups. The acceptance or rejection of a proposal has to be within the parameters of the product filed with IRDA: Often an outer age limit is defined in a product and some times different outer age limits may be indicated for fresh covers and renewal covers respectively. Though insurance companies expect people to join health insurance scheme at an early age, rejection of renewal of a person who has been continuously insured just because he has crossed middle age is not permissible. IRDA received a few complaints about the reluctance of the insurance companies to grant health insurance covers beyond 45 to 50 years of age. On receiving such complaints, IRDA takes them up with the concerned insurance company for the redressal of grievance.

World Bank AID to Orissa for Poverty Alleviation

2169. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World bank propose to advance funds for two major projects for development of Orissa State highways and major district roads and another for poverty alleviation beginning next year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the contribution of the Central government in the above sector to help the State to alleviate poverty and improve its economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The World Bank is considering a proposal of Government of Orissa for developing State highways and highly trafficked roads, for which purpose it has given a project preparation advance

of US$ 3,000,000. However, no project for poverty alleviation in Orissa has been posed to the World Bank.

(c) The contribution of the Central Government to help the State alleviate poverty and improve its economy is decided on a year-to-year basis during the Annual Plan discussions in the Planning Commission.

Service Tax on projects of Defence Housing Boards

2160. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Service Tax is being levied on projects being made by Defence Housing Boards who are building houses for their employees on no profit no loss basis;

(b) whether Air Force Naval Housing Board has been asked to deposit Service Tax from retrospective effect for its project in Sector 47, Noida even though the project was under construction much before April, 2005;

(c) whether the allottees have been subject to tremendous financial burden due to this tax;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to exempt the above project from the levy of Service Tax; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) In terms of section 65 of the Finance Act, 1994, any service provided to any person, by any other person in relation to construction of complex, as defined in the said section, is a taxable service. Accordingly, service tax is leviable, if any such taxable service is provided to the Defence Housing Board by a service provider.

(b) No Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not arise in view of the (b) above

Central Excise exemption limit for SSI Units

2161. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Proneb Sen Committee has recommended to increase